

WNV (and other Arboviral) SURVEILLANCE GUIDANCE for Clinicians and Laboratories

Annual West Nile Virus Surveillance Season (June-October).

Patient selection criteria for surveillance (neuroinvasive disease only):

- Viral encephalitis (any age), or
- Aseptic or suspect viral meningitis (CSF pleocytosis of 10 cells or more)
ONLY in persons age 17 years or greater.
- Guillain - Barré syndrome (any age).

Physicians: Order 3 ml serum and CSF (prioritize testing for other organisms based on amount available and clinical picture) to the RI State Laboratory for arboviral testing AND Report suspect case to the Division of Infectious Disease and Epidemiology (401 222 2577) a public health nurse will assure specimen transfer.

Laboratories:

- Transfer serum and CSF as ordered by physician to State Lab **AND** transfer any CSF specimen with >10 nucleated cells to the State lab (no preauthorization required).
- Lab & Phone #: Serology (401) 222-5591
- Description/Test: An enzyme-linked immunosorbent capture assay to detect IgM antibodies to West Nile Virus. All other requests for arbovirus testing and confirmations are sent to CDC.
- Specimen: Minimum 5 ml serum in red top tube; minimum 2 ml cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) collected aseptically. Small volumes of CSF must be prioritized and apportioned with physician consultation.
- Form Required: Rhode Island State Health Laboratories test requisition form
- Test Request: Arbovirus (WNV).
- Transport: Refrigerate at 4° to 8° C and transport within 48 hours of collection on blue or wet ice. All submissions must be properly packaged in accordance with current federal shipping regulations. Containers specifically labeled for transport of specimens to the HEALTH Serology Laboratory are available in all hospital laboratories.
- Integrity: Non-hemolyzed
- Turnaround Time: 5 business days (for WNV), longer if specimen is sent to CDC for a full panel.

